

A PERFORMANCE AND COST EVALUATION OF PURUS PADRE® REGENERATIVE RESIN SYSTEM FOR THE TREATMENT OF HYDROCARBON VAPORS FROM FUEL-CONTAMINATED SOILS

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**A PERFORMANCE AND COST
EVALUATION OF PURUS PADRE®
REGENERATIVE RESIN FOR TREATMENT OF
HYDROCARBON VAPORS FROM FUEL-CONTAMINATED SOILS**

by

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DENVER, COLORADO

For

U.S. AIR FORCE

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

BROOKS AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

This document describes the performance and costs associated with the Purus PADRE® vapor treatment system manufactured by the Purus Corporation of San Jose, California (Purus Inc. 2713 N First Street, San Jose, CA 95134-2000). During the period of 11 February to 1 June 1994, a Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 was tested at the Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) Base Exchange (BX) service station near Lompoc, California. In many states, VOCs must be treated before being discharged into the atmosphere. In the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, discharges of both total VOCs and benzene are regulated. The Purus PADRE® system was selected to provide treatment of these compounds until vapor concentrations were reduced to acceptable levels. The test was completed in conjunction with an ongoing bioventing pilot test conducted by Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. (Parsons ES) under the direction of the Air Force Center For Environmental Excellence (AFCEE), Technology Transfer Division (ERT). The purpose of this test was to independently measure both the performance and the cost of Purus PADRE® operation, and to determine how this technology can be most effectively used to complement the bioventing technology.

Bioventing is an *in situ* remediation technology which is best suited for less volatile hydrocarbons commonly found in jet fuels, diesel fuels, and heating oils. Bioventing can be accomplished through air injection or extraction; however, injection of air into sites contaminated with more volatile hydrocarbon products (e.g., gasoline) can result in uncontrolled migration of high concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). To overcome this disadvantage, soil vapor extraction techniques can be used during the initial months of remediation to remove and treat high levels of soil gas VOCs. Additionally, while the VOCs are being extracted from the soil, the influx of fresh soil gas contains oxygen required to promote *in situ* biodegradation. This short period of vapor extraction is then followed by long-term air injection to provide oxygen for biodegradation of less volatile or adsorbed hydrocarbons in the soil.

Evaluation of the Purus PADRE® vapor treatment system took place during phase one of a full-scale bioventing demonstration. Phase one of the project focused on removing the soil gas containing high levels of volatile hydrocarbons and dewatering to increase the amount of soil that could be contacted by the bioventing process. Extracted soil gas was passed through a Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 vapor treatment system where the high concentrations of volatile hydrocarbons were removed and recovered. The treated soil gas from the Purus unit was recirculated through the soil using air reinjection trenches located along the perimeter of the gasoline spill site. The Purus unit was operated so that no more than 1,000 parts per million, volume per volume (ppmv) total hydrocarbons were returned to the soil. The total duration of phase one was approximately 110 days. When extracted soil gas VOC concentrations

decreased to below 1,000 ppmv, the Purus PADRE® was removed from the site, and phase two bioventing operations (*in situ* biodegradation of the remaining fuel) began.

This document is organized into five sections including this introduction. Section 2 provides a more complete description of the technology, and the vendor's information on performance and cost. Section 3 contains results of the 3-month field test, with an emphasis on VOC destruction efficiency, operating costs, and reliability and maintainability issues. Section 4 provides a summary of this technology evaluation and discusses how this technology can best be integrated into an *in situ* bioventing project. Section 5 includes the references cited in this report.

SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION OF TECHNOLOGY

2.1 PURUS PADRE® VAPOR TREATMENT UNIT

The Purus PADRE® system (Figure 2.1), manufactured by Purus, Inc. of San Jose, California, is an innovative pollution control device designed for onsite capture and recovery of organic vapor emissions from industrial air vents, industrial water treatment processes, and site remediation operations. The Purus system purifies contaminated air streams directly from a soil vapor extraction well by adsorbing the contaminant onto a filter bed filled with a synthetic polymeric adsorbent (Blystone, 1992).

The process involves one bed, or a series of online beds, treating influent air, while another bed is being desorbed. The beds are automatically switched between adsorption and desorption cycles by an onboard controller system. The desorption cycle combines temperature, pressure, and a carrier gas. During the desorption cycle, all the organic contaminants trapped on the adsorbent material are removed, condensed, and transferred as a liquid to a storage tank. The recovered compounds are often acceptable for recycling or reuse options. The system is self-contained and skid-mounted.

The Purus PADRE® process has demonstrated the ability to automatically and repeatedly regenerate adsorption beds with no practical loss of adsorption capacity. The adsorption beds also have a high tolerance to water vapor, allowing processing of air streams with relative humidity greater than 90 percent with little impact on adsorption efficiency.

As shown in Figure 2.2, the Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 system consists of two identical modular adsorbent beds. The choice of adsorbent material is based upon specific contaminant characteristics. During the desorption cycle, the organic material trapped on the adsorbent material is volatilized, condensed, and transferred as a liquid to a storage tank. The condenser system has two stages; one set at 2°C for water condensation and the other at -45°C to capture solvents with low boiling points. The system is equipped with a modem for remote monitoring and control.

Purus Vapor Treatment System

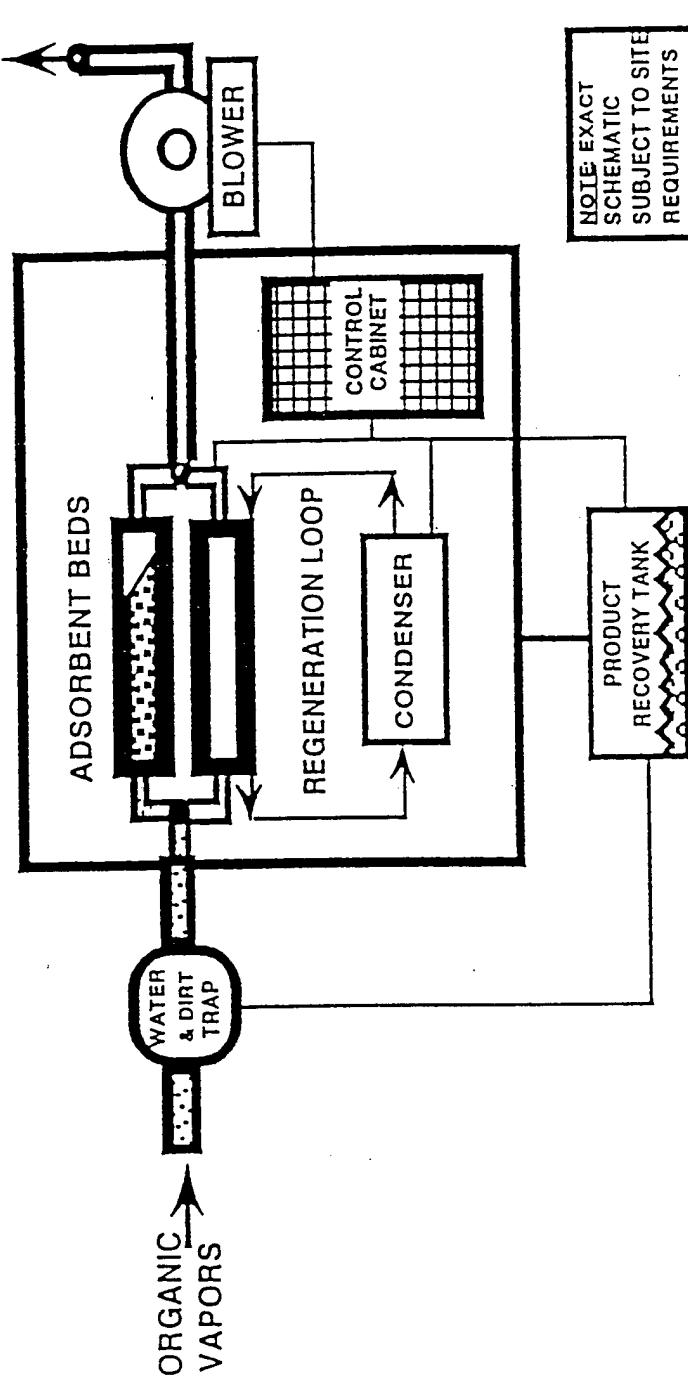


FIGURE 2.1
PURUS
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

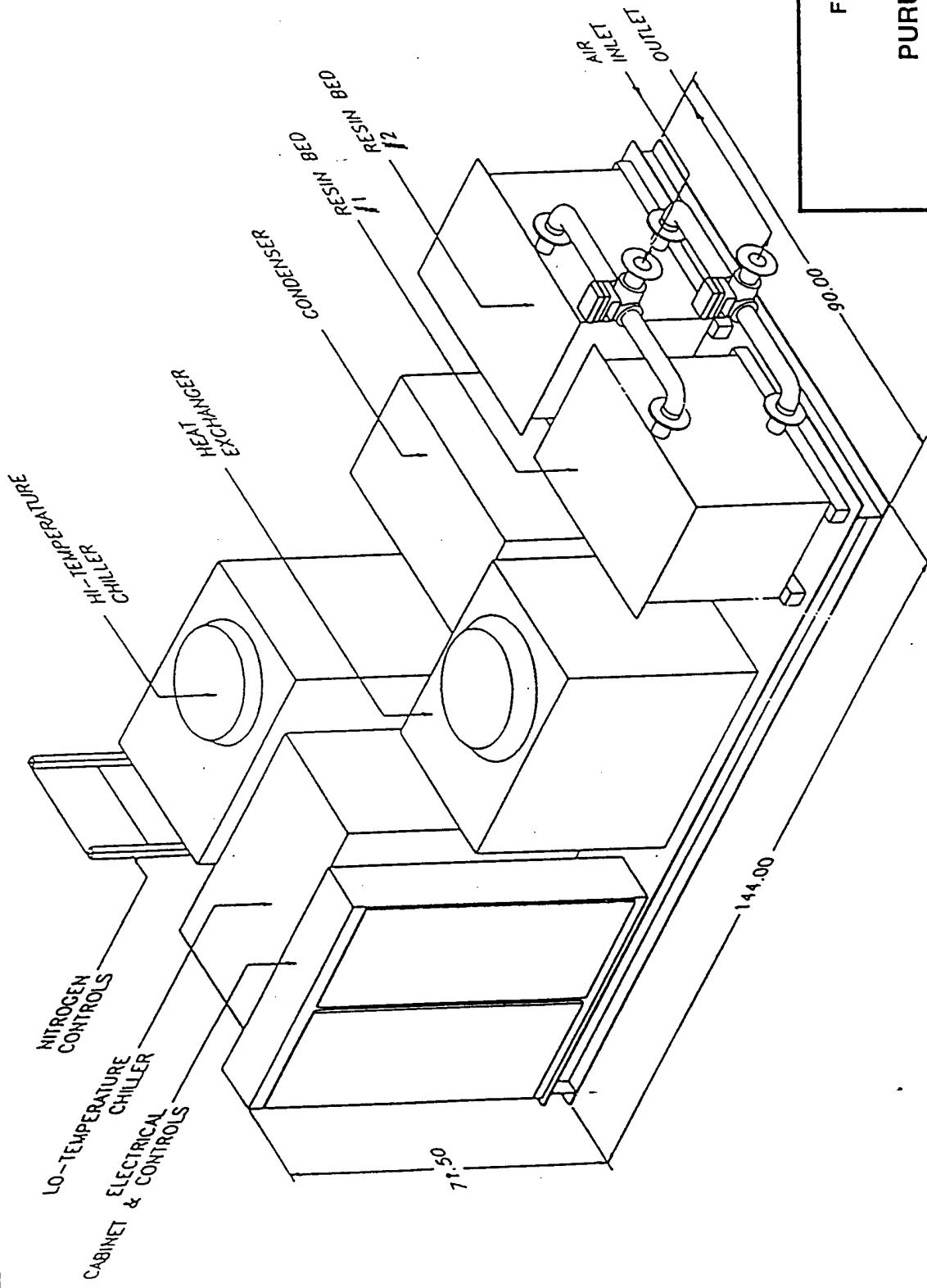


FIGURE 2.2

PURUS PADRE™
MODEL 1.6
AIR TREATMENT SYSTEM



Denver, Colorado

2.2 VENDOR'S STATEMENT OF SYSTEM CAPABILITIES AND COSTS

2.2.1 Capabilities

Purus PADRE® systems are available in different configurations, depending on the specific application. To date, Purus has installed systems that can treat air flows as high as 10,000 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm). Smaller units (Model 1.6) are available to handle the lower air flows encountered at some remediation sites. Successfully treated compounds include gasoline hydrocarbons [including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes (BTEX)], chlorinated solvents such as trichloroethene (TCE) and carbon tetrachloride, and oxygenated solvents such as ketones and alcohols. Table 2.1 presents locations of Purus PADRE® installations as of September 1994.

Purus treatment systems are designed to control VOC emissions at remediation sites and industrial air and wastewater facilities. Site remediation usually involves vacuum extraction of solvents or fuels from soils and, in many cases, treatment of groundwater. Purus provides treatment units for soil vacuum extraction and groundwater air stripping in which VOC vapors are treated with the Purus regenerative adsorption system. Purus units can also treat VOC-laden waters using an emission-free closed-loop air stripping process.

Using an approach similar to closed-looping, the Purus system has also treated extracted soil gas prior to reinjecting the soil gas into the soil, allowing for removal of high levels of hydrocarbon vapors during the early stages of a bioventing project. Gasoline-contaminated sites are most suitable for the Purus PADRE® to be used with *in situ* bioventing.

2.2.2 System Support and Specifications

The Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 requires electrical power delivered at 440V (+/- 10%), 3-Phase, and 150 amp service. Smaller Purus PADRE® models require 220V (+/- 10%), 3-Phase, 4 wire, 75 amp service per module.

Nitrogen gas is required to assist bed desorption. The three supply options are: (1) liquid nitrogen dewar supplied by local vendors, (2) optional nitrogen generator available from Purus, or (3) industrial house nitrogen if available. Nitrogen specifications are 5 scfm dry, 98% pure, oil-free, and particulate-free down to 0.1 micron.

The footprint requirement for a Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 is 7 feet wide, 11 feet long, and 7.5 feet high. Dimensions do not include external equipment such as blowers, site piping, and exhaust stack.

The ambient temperature range for normal operation of the Purus PADRE® system is between 32°F and 100°F (0°C-40°C). The system can be delivered in an enclosure for extreme temperature conditions. Source air-stream temperatures above 150°F might require cooling prior to adsorption. The adsorption process will work over a range of

TABLE 2.1
PADRE® INSTALLATIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 1994

| Customer | St. | VOC Source | Contaminants | Date | cfm |
|------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| 1 Chemical Plant | PA | Odor Control | Acetone, Hexane, Acrylates | 11/11/92 | 1,000 |
| 2 Acetate Film Manufacturer (x) | NY | Plant Decommissioning | Methylene Chloride, Acetone, MeOH | 6/11/93 | 500 |
| 3 Air Force Base (x) | OK | Paint stripping line | MEK | 7/2/93 | 500 |
| 4 Composites Manufacturer (x) | OH | Plant Ventilation | Styrene | 5/23/94 | 150 |
| 5 Petroleum Refinery (x) | TX | Tank Cleaning | Benzene | 6/3/94 | 500 |
| 6 Food Additives Co. (4 units) | OK | Process Air Stream | Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) | 6/20/94 | 4,000 |
| 7 Chemical Manufacturer | NJ | Process Air Stream | Acrylates / IPA | 6/28/94 | 1,000 |
| 8 Food Additives Co. | OK | Process Air Stream | Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) | 9/24/94 | 4,000 |
| 9 Petrochemical Plant | TX | Process Air Stream | Benzene | 8/8/94 | 500 |
| 10 Automotive Parts Manufacturer | GA | Process Air Stream | MEK | 9/27/94 | 1,500 |
| 11 Chemical Plant (2 units) | IL | Process Wastewater | Vinyl Chloride | 8/20/94 | 300 |
| 12 Chemical Plant (x) | TX | Process Wastewater | Benzene, Styrene, Ethyl Benzene | 6/2/93 | 150 |
| 13 Chemical Plant | TX | Process Wastewater | Toluene, Acetone, Methylene Chloride | 5/12/92 | 100 |
| 14 TSD Facility | CA | Process Water Tanks | Industrial Solvents, hydrocarbons | 8/15/94 | 500 |
| 15 Power Utility Company | AZ | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 12/22/93 | 5,400 |
| 16 Municipality (x) | CA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 5/21/93 | 1,000 |
| 17 Defense Contractor | CA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 9/21/93 | 1,000 |
| 18 Air Force Base | CA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 3/25/94 | 600 |
| 19 Chemicals Distributor | CA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 11/12/93 | 150 |
| 20 Chemical Plant | CA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents, Mineral Spirits | 6/30/94 | 500 |
| 21 DOE Facility | CA | Groundwater | Chromium Removal | 3/31/94 | 80 gpm |
| 22 Office of the State | IA | Groundwater | Gasoline | 1/15/93 | 150 |
| 23 Superfund Site | IN | Groundwater | Gasoline | 9/19/94 | 1,500 |
| 24 Chemical Manufacturer | KS | Groundwater | Chloroform | 3/31/94 | 450 |
| 25 Chemical Plant (x) | LA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 12/3/93 | 150 |
| 26 Chemical Plant | LA | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 8/8/94 | 1,000 |
| 27 Electronics Plant (2 units) (x) | NE | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 12/22/92 | 400 |
| 28 Solvent Recycling Facility (x) | NJ | Groundwater | Methylene Chloride | 4/30/93 | 150 |
| 29 Superfund Site | RI | Groundwater | TCE | 9/19/94 | 150 |
| 30 Superfund Site (2 units) | TX | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 9/27/94 | 1,000 |
| 31 TSD Facility | MI | Groundwater | Chlorinated Solvents | 9/28/94 | 500 |
| 32 Electronics Manufacturer | CA | Groundwater/SVE | Chlorinated Solvents | 3/31/94 | 1,000 |
| 33 Chemicals Distributor (x) | CA | Groundwater/SVE | Chlorinated Solvents | 2/9/93 | 160 |
| 34 Air Force Base (x) | CA | Soil Bioventing | Gasoline | 9/30/93 | 50 |
| 35 TSD Facility | NV | Soil Bioventing | Gasoline | 6/30/94 | 500 |
| 36 Chemical Plant (2 units) | NJ | Soil Thermal Desorption | Chlorobenzene | 5/27/94 | 4,500 |
| 37 Car Dealership | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Gasoline | 3/31/92 | 22 |
| 38 Paint Manufacturer (x) | AZ | Soil Vapor Extraction | Mineral Spirits | 10/27/92 | 250 |
| 39 Solvent Recycling Facility | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Industrial Solvents | 3/4/93 | 150 |
| 40 Manufacturing Plant (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents, Freon-113 | 3/10/93 | 100 |
| 41 Chemical Plant (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents, Mineral Spirits | 4/2/93 | 150 |
| 42 Army Depot (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents, Freon-113 | 7/2/93 | 150 |
| 43 Aircraft Manufacturer (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Methylene Chloride | 8/10/93 | 150 |
| 44 Defense Contractor (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents, MEK | 8/26/93 | 150 |
| 45 Air Force Base (2 units) (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 8/30/93 | 1,000 |
| 46 Defense Contractor | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 10/29/93 | 500 |
| 47 Chemical Plant | LA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 12/30/93 | 1,000 |
| 48 Chemicals Distributor | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 12/31/93 | 500 |
| 49 Electronics Plant (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 1/18/94 | 500 |
| 50 Defense Contractor (x) | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 3/18/94 | 150 |
| 51 Army Depot | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents, Freon-113 | 3/25/94 | 500 |
| 52 Electronics Manufacturer | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 3/25/94 | 800 |
| 53 Chemical Manufacturer (x) | LA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Vinyl Chloride | 3/28/94 | 75 |
| 54 Landfill | NY | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 6/21/94 | 750 |
| 55 Polymer Manufacturer | NJ | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 6/28/94 | 100 |
| 56 Manufacturing Facility | FL | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 6/29/94 | 2,500 |
| 57 Semiconductor Manufacturer | CA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 6/30/94 | 400 |
| 58 Petrochemical Plant | TN | Soil Vapor Extraction | Chlorinated Solvents | 9/27/94 | 200 |
| 59 DOE facility | WA | Soil Vapor Extraction | Carbon Tetrachloride | 9/30/94 | 500 |

x = completed operations

relative humidity conditions. The unit operates at a noise level of < 85 decibels (db) at 10 feet when all components are running simultaneously.

VOC removal efficiencies are generally greater than 98 percent. The Purus PADRE® unit can be configured and operated to obtain even greater efficiencies if required by an operating permit. For the Vandenberg AFB application, each bed contained approximately 180 pounds of adsorbent, and approximately 14 pounds of gasoline were collected from each bed during the desorption step. The Purus PADRE® system exhibited an 8 percent working isotherm capacity. Figure 2.3 illustrates an adsorption isotherm for aromatic compounds on PurSorb 200 in a humid air stream.

2.2.3 Vendor Costs

Table 2.2 shows the vendor's estimate of capital, rental, operating, and estimated maintenance or service contract costs for a Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 operated in a manner similar to the Vandenberg AFB application.

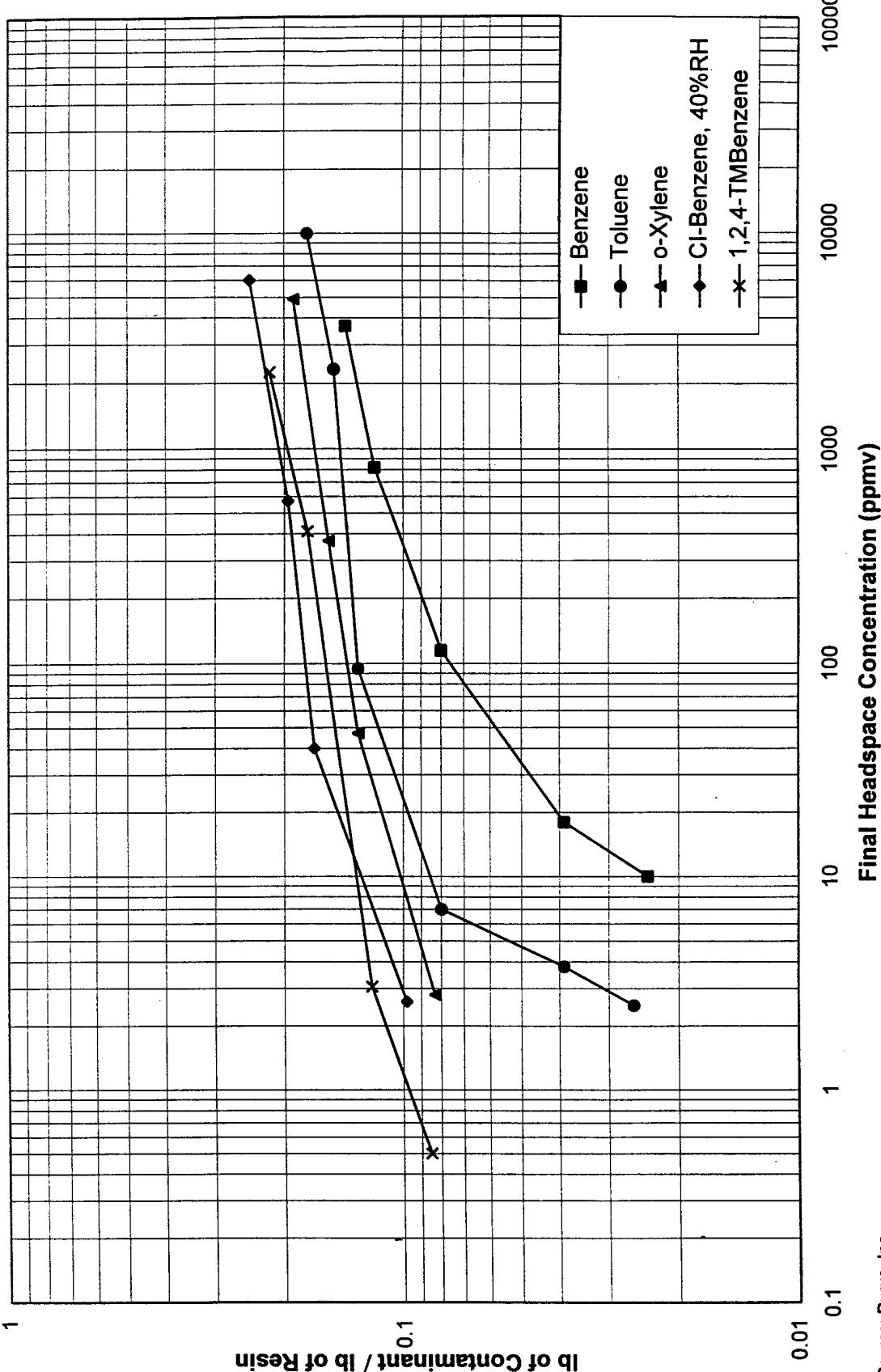
TABLE 2.2
Purus PADRE® MODEL 1.6 VENDOR COST ESTIMATE

| Cost Item | Price |
|---|-----------|
| Purchase | \$132,500 |
| Rental (monthly) (\$3,500 if over 12 months) | 7,000 |
| Operating Costs (monthly) | |
| electrical* | 254 |
| nitrogen gas** | 487 |
| Estimated Maintenance (monthly) | 500 |

* Excludes site blower and assumes \$0.06 per kilowatt hour.

** Assumes \$80 per liquid nitrogen dewar costs.

FIGURE 2.3
ADSORPTION ISOTHERMS FOR
AROMATIC COMPOUNDS ON
PURSORB™ 200 @ 30°C, 100% RH



Source: Purus, Inc.

2.3 REGULATORY ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance of Purus PADRE® systems by regulatory agencies has been widespread, including federal EPA, state, and local air quality districts. The following states have permitted Purus PADRE® systems to date:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Arizona | Iowa | Ohio |
| California* | Kansas | Oklahoma |
| Florida | Louisiana | Pennsylvania |
| Georgia | Michigan | Rhode Island |
| Illinois | Nebraska | South Carolina |
| Indiana | Nevada | Tennessee |
| | New Jersey | Texas |
| | New York | Washington |

- * Includes permits in the stringent South Coast and Bay Area Air Quality Management Districts, as well as a Multiple Sites Permit from South Coast. Purus also anticipates permits in Germany, Switzerland, and Puerto Rico in 1995.

SECTION 3

FIELD DEMONSTRATION RESULTS

3.1 SITE BACKGROUND

In 1985, two 10,000-gallon unleaded gasoline tanks and associated piping were removed from the Vandenberg AFB BX Service Station. Two additional gasoline storage tanks and a 250-gallon waste oil tank were removed in 1991. During these tank removals, hydrocarbon contamination was discovered beneath the tanks. A small amount of contaminated soil was removed during excavation operations. Subsequent site assessments revealed soil and groundwater contamination beneath much of the site. Total petroleum hydrocarbons, quantified as gasoline (TPH-gasoline), of up to 22,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) were measured in soil samples collected during these investigations. Up to 210 mg/kg of benzene, 2,000 mg/kg of toluene, 490 mg/kg of ethylbenzene, and 2,900 mg/kg of xylenes was also detected. Groundwater samples also contained these contaminants. The contamination was found to be within a highly permeable silty sand, and extended from approximately 3 to 14 feet below ground surface (bgs). The depth to groundwater varies between 7 and 9 feet bgs and fluctuates seasonally. The lower boundary of this aquifer is composed of an impermeable clay bed located between 14 and 20 feet bgs.

In September 1992, an initial bioventing pilot test was conducted following procedures outlined in the Test Plan and Protocol for a Field Treatability Test for Bioventing (Hinchee et al., 1992). The soil vapor within the contaminated zone at this site had been depleted of oxygen due to fuel biodegradation. Hydrocarbon vapor concentrations of up to 45,000 ppmv of volatile hydrocarbons and 400 ppmv of benzene were measured in soil gas samples. An *in situ* respiration test indicated that when oxygen (air) was provided to the subsurface, soil microbes consumed hydrocarbons at a rate of approximately 1.6 to 2.7 milligrams of hydrocarbon per kilogram of soil per day. Due to the high concentrations of hydrocarbon vapor in the shallow soil and close proximity to occupied buildings, air injection could not be used to supply oxygen to the soils during initial bioventing operations. The risk of vapor migration into nearby buildings and utility corridors must always be considered when evaluating the merits of bioventing using air injection versus soil vapor extraction.

A two-phased bioventing pilot test at the Vandenberg AFB BX Service Station began on February 11, 1994. During phase one, high levels of hydrocarbon vapor were removed using soil vapor extraction. A vacuum-induced influx of oxygen-rich soil gas stimulated *in situ* biodegradation of sorbed fuel residuals. Removed hydrocarbon vapors were treated using the Purus PADRE® unit, and the treated gas was returned to the soil using a perimeter injection trench which acted as an *in situ* biofilter to biodegrade any untreated hydrocarbon vapors. Figure 3.1 illustrates the phase one operation. When the average soil gas concentrations had been reduced to less than 1,000 ppmv, the Purus PADRE® treatment unit was removed and the soil gas was recirculated through the perimeter injection trench for *in situ* biotreatment. The flux of hydrocarbon vapors from the soil to the atmosphere was minimal and was carefully monitored using a soil flux protocol prescribed by the EPA (Radian, 1985). A dewatering system has been established on the site to remove perched water and to increase the volume of contaminated vadose zone soil that can be treated through bioventing. Additional details on the design and performance of the *in situ* biofilter are reported in another publication (Downey, 1994).

3.2 REGULATORY APPROVAL AND REQUIREMENTS

The State of California strictly regulates hydrocarbon emissions to the atmosphere. The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD), the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board approval were required for this project; allowable air emissions were set by the SBCAPCD. System operating parameters were mutually agreed upon. It was also agreed that reinjected hydrocarbons would not exceed 1,000 ppmv. Under no circumstances could the system operate if air within the BX Service Station building or over the injection trenches contained more than 1 ppmv of benzene. Flux monitoring samples were never to exceed 100 ppmv hydrocarbons and total site hydrocarbon emissions were never to exceed 1 pound per hour. However, the use of the Purus PADRE® followed by reinjection/*in situ* biofiltration of vapors required no formal air emission permit.

3.3 TEST CONDITIONS

3.3.1 Soil Vapor Concentrations

Table 3.1 shows total hydrocarbon and oxygen concentrations in soil vapor from each extraction well before system startup and after 18 days of treatment. Average soil vapor concentrations of hydrocarbon were reduced by a factor of five during this 18-day period. The influx of oxygen-rich soil gas from uncontaminated soils into the contaminated soils is also evident. This highly aerobic environment ensured that fuel biodegradation would complement volatilization in the removal of gasoline residuals from these soils. The soil vapor extraction rate during phase one was varied between 20 and 49 scfm, and the flow from each vent well was adjusted to produce the desired influent concentration for the Purus PADRE® unit. By the 110th day of operation, the average hydrocarbon concentration of soil vapor had been reduced by a factor of 20.

LEGEND

- P — Pressure Gauge
- V — Vacuum Gauge
- T — Temperature Gauge
- D — Dilution Valve
- R — Vacuum Relief Valve
- F — Flow Control Valve
- S — Sampling Port

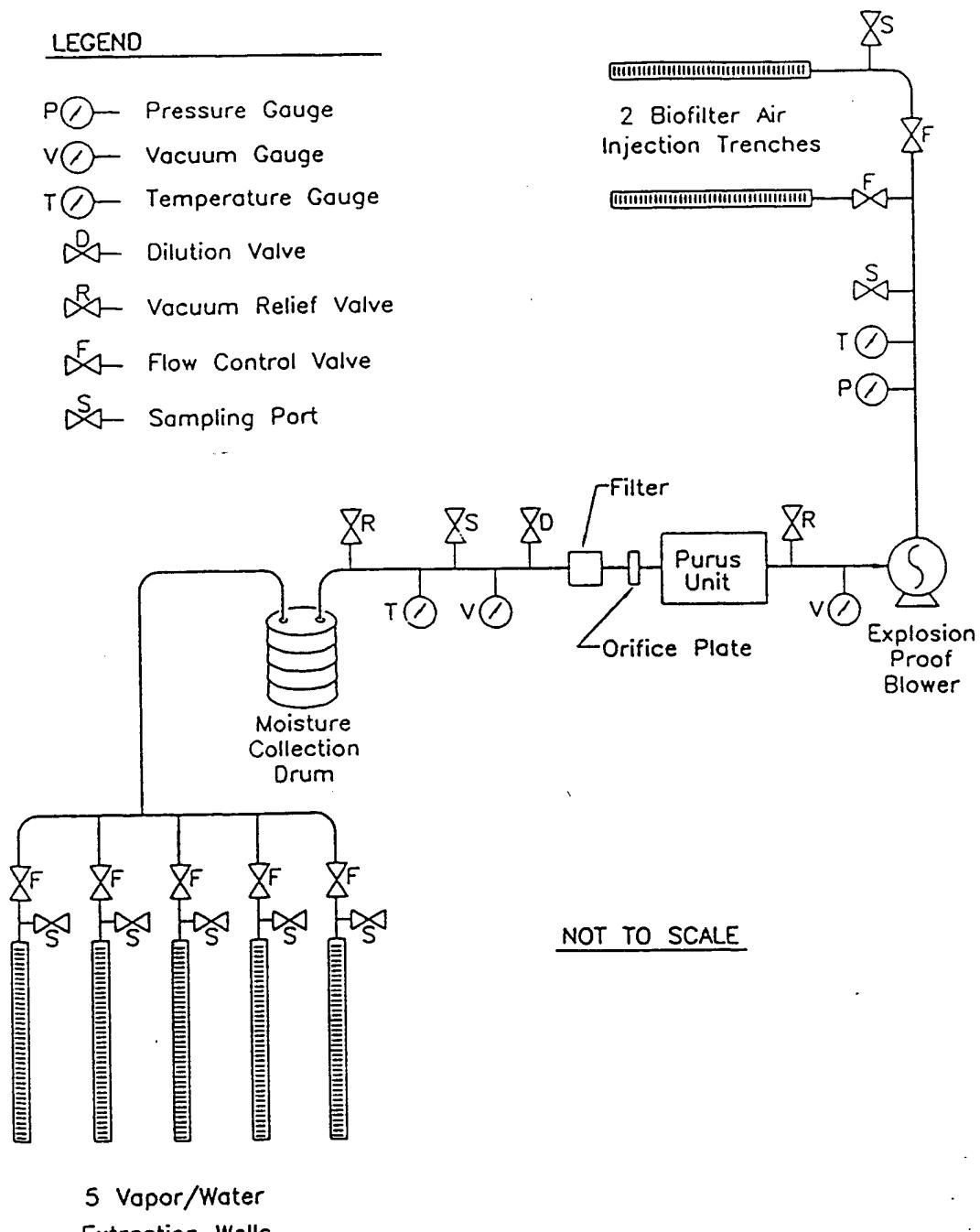


FIGURE 3.1

**PHASE ONE FLOW DIAGRAM
BX SERVICE STATION BIOVENTING**

Vandenburg AFB, California



**PARSONS
ENGINEERING SCIENCE, INC.**

Denver, Colorado

TABLE 3.1
VAPOR EXTRACTION WELL SOIL GAS ANALYSES
BX SERVICE STATION
VANDENBERG AFB

| Date | Vapor Extraction Well | Total Hydrocarbons | Percent Oxygen |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1/5/94 pre startup | VEW 1 | 54,000 | 1.0 |
| | VEW 2 | 9,000 | 2.0 |
| | VEW 3 | 5,200 | 1.5 |
| | VEW 4 | 8,000 | 0.0 |
| | VEW 5 | 94 | 13.0 |
| 3/1/94 After 18 days of treatment | VEW 1 | 9,000 | 16.0 |
| | VEW 2 | 3,600 | 20.2 |
| | VEW 3 | 700 | 20.8 |
| | VEW 4 | 580 | 20.5 |
| | VEW 5 | 260 | 20.8 |
| 6/1/94 After 110 days of treatment | VEW 1 | 1,900 | 19.9 |
| | VEW 2 | 1,600 | 18.9 |
| | VEW 3 | 32 | 19.0 |
| | VEW 4 | 56 | 11.8 |
| | VEW 5 | 46 | 19.2 |

3.3.2 Purus PADRE® Configuration

For this application, each of the two adsorbent beds of the Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 was loaded with 180 pounds of PurSorb® 200. An adsorption isotherm for removal of aromatic hydrocarbons using PurSorb® 200 resin was provided by Purus (Figure 2.3). Each bed was designed to adsorb approximately 14 pounds of hydrocarbons before being cycled to the desorption phase (approximately 8 percent working isotherm capacity). It is important to note that the resin bed size and regeneration cycles can be optimized based on the concentrations and flow rates encountered.

3.4 OBSERVED PERFORMANCE

The performance of the Purus PADRE® was evaluated based on three primary criteria: treatment efficiency, cost, and reliability and maintainability. Results of the independent evaluation follow.

3.4.1 Treatment Efficiency

Influent soil gas and effluent from the Purus PADRE® unit were monitored for total hydrocarbon and benzene removal. Both a portable GasTech Tracetechtor® hydrocarbon analyzer and laboratory analysis using EPA Method TO-3 were used to determine total volatile hydrocarbon and BTEX vapor concentrations. Removal rates averaged greater than 98 percent for total hydrocarbons, and greater than 99 percent for

benzene. Efficiency dropped below 98 percent only once when one bed was accidentally adsorbing for twice the normal time period, which led to hydrocarbon breakthrough. The Purus PADRE® system recovered approximately 570 gallons (1,600 kg) of hydrocarbons and 70 gallons of water from the extracted soil vapor during the 110-day test period. Table 3.2 provides a summary of the Purus PADRE® performance and a comparison of treatment efficiency at flow rates of 20 to 49 scfm and total hydrocarbon concentrations of 18,600 to 3,000 ppmv, respectively.

TABLE 3.2
PURUS PADRE® SYSTEM TREATMENT PERFORMANCE -
HYDROCARBON REMOVAL EFFICIENCY
BX SERVICE STATION, VANDENBERG AFB

| Date | Purus Influent (ppmv) | BioFilter Trench Influent (ppmv) | Flow Rate | Extraction Well Source | Treatment Efficiency (percent) |
|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Startup 2/11/94 | | | | | |
| 2/11/94 | 8,600 | 110 | 40 cfm | VEW 3 - 5 | 98.7 |
| 2/12/94 | 3,600 | 140 | 40 cfm | VEW 3 - 5 | 96.1 |
| 2/13/94 | 5,600 | 85 | 40 cfm | VEW 3 - 5 | 98.5 |
| Benzene** | 385 | <.1 | | | 99.9 % |
| 2/14/94 | 18,600 | 80 | 40 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 99.6 |
| 2/15/94 | 6,400 | 110 | 40 cfm | VEW 3 - 5 | 98.3 |
| Benzene | 147 | <.1 | | | 99.9 % |
| 2/17/94 | 5,600 | 80 | 20 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 98.6 |
| 2/18/94 | 13,000 | 64 | 20 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 99.5 |
| Benzene | 220 | <.1 | | | 99.9 % |
| 3/2/94 | 6,000 | 6.8 | 20 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 99.9 |
| Benzene | 110 | <.1 | | | 99.9 % |
| 3/21/94 | 4,000 | 50 | 20 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 98.8 |
| Benzene | 96 | <.1 | | | 99.9 % |
| 3/30/94 | 4,500 | 9.1 | 20 cfm | VEW 1 - 5 | 99.8 |
| 4/14/94 | 3,000 | *430 | 20 cfm | VEW 1, 2, 4 | *85.7 |
| Benzene | 60 | .14 | | | 99.8 % |
| 4/28/94 | 3,700 | 30 | 46 cfm | VEW 1, 2 | 99.2 |
| 5/24/94 | 4,300 | 71 | 49 cfm | VEW 1, 2 | 98.3 |
| Benzene | 35 | <.01 | | | 99.9 % |

Values in boldface are EPA Method TO-3 data quantified as gasoline. All other values were measured with a GasTech TraceTechtor\hydrocarbon meter calibrated to ambient air and 4,800 ppmv hexane.

* = Anomalous result - adsorption on a resin bed for twice normal period causing saturation of bed.

** = Benzene removal data for the sampling date above.

VEW 1 - 5 are in order of contamination magnitude, with VEW 1 having highest contamination and VEW 5 the lowest.

Hydrocarbon data were collected at random times during adsorption cycles. Therefore, the effluent concentrations may have varied from the measured values by up to a factor of 2 during each adsorption cycle.

For additional treatment, effluent from the Purus PADRE® was injected into the *in situ* biofilter trenches around the perimeter of the site. Although the Purus PADRE® unit alone provided adequate treatment to meet SBCAPCD discharge standards, the use of *in situ* biofiltration provides an important backup when the system experiences short-

term problems. During phase two operations, the *in situ* biofilter has consistently provided greater than 99 percent treatment of the recirculated hydrocarbon vapors.

3.4.2 Cost of Operation

Parsons Engineering Science, Inc. closely monitored the costs of setup and operation of the Purus PADRE® system. Excluded from these costs are Parsons ES labor costs and the cost of vapor and air emission sampling, which would be relatively constant regardless of the vapor treatment technology.

The cost of transporting the system to the site via surface freight was also excluded as it would vary based on the site location. The Model 1.6 requires a 440 volt, 150 amp, 3-phase power supply. The cost of power connections will vary based on the availability of a high voltage supply on the site. On more remote sites, the cost of supplying power to the Purus PADRE® would be significant. A summary of these costs is provided in Table 3.3.

TABLE 3.3
COSTS OF PURUS® PADRE TREATMENT
AT VANDENBERG AFB BX SERVICE STATION

| Cost Item | Subtotal |
|--|----------|
| Purus Setup | \$2,500 |
| Rental (110 days) | \$25,667 |
| Purus Operation Labor (110 days) | \$4,500 |
| Power | \$1,212 |
| Nitrogen | \$1,760 |
| Mobilization/Demobilization (variable) | \$1,000 |
| Total Cost | \$36,634 |

The total rental fee for the Vandenberg AFB project was \$25,667, and was based on 110 days of operation and a 30-day month. The Model 1.6 has a rental charge of \$7,000 per month for this short-term application. However, Purus has indicated that this charge is flexible based on the demand for these units and the time on site. A rental fee of \$3,500 per month is available for rentals of 12 months or more.

A total of 20,200 kilowatt hours of electricity were used for Purus PADRE® operations. Assuming a cost of 6 cents per kilowatt hour, the total electric cost was approximately \$1,212. Twenty-two dewars of liquid nitrogen were consumed during PADRE® operation. At a cost of approximately \$80 per dewar, including delivery, \$1,760 was spent on nitrogen. Startup of the Purus system required an engineer on site for two weeks at an approximate cost of \$2,500. Operations and maintenance of the system required a daily 2-hour visit by a technician at an approximate cost of \$300 per week, or a total cost for the duration of PADRE® operation of \$4,500. During long-term operations, this cost could be significantly reduced if a telephone modem were used to monitor and control the system. A minimum of 3 hours per week (\$125) will

be required to change out nitrogen and check system operations. Disposal costs for the recovered, condensed hydrocarbons were minimal because the product was recycled.

At the Vandenberg AFB site, the total Purus PADRE® treatment cost was approximately \$23 per kilogram (\$10.45/lb) of hydrocarbons removed. Cost are site-specific and time-sensitive. For example, if the test site were more contaminated, the Purus PADRE® could have easily removed twice as much fuel over the same 110-day period without decreasing treatment efficiency. Figure 3.2 illustrates the impact of influent concentration on Purus PADRE® costs if a constant flow rate of 50 scfm is assumed. At 50 scfm, optimum and maximum loading will occur at a concentration of approximately 4,250 ppmv. For gasoline vapors, this corresponds to a loading rate of 36 kilograms (79.2 lbs) per day. To maintain this optimum loading rate, the flow rate can be increased as the vapor concentrations decrease. As long as a 36-kilogram-per-day loading is maintained, the treatment cost will be approximately \$5 to \$6 per kilogram of hydrocarbon removed.

3.4.3 Comparison of Purus PADRE® Costs to Other Vapor Treatment Technologies

Table 3.4 provides a cost comparison of Purus PADRE® Model 1.6, VR Systems Model V2C internal combustion engine (ICE), and granulated activated carbon (GAC). Purus PADRE® costs are based on a reduced rental rate of \$3,500/month, which assumes a 12-month minimum rental. Costs for the V2C ICE unit are based on previous Air Force testing of ICES (Archabal and Downey, 1994) and manufacturer's data. Carbon costs are based on vendor costs as of 1 January 1995. All costs are based on a 50-scfm soil vapor extraction rate, and are calculated for four different hydrocarbon concentrations ranging from 525 ppmv to 4,250 ppmv.

Figure 3.3 illustrates this cost comparison as a function of influent soil vapor concentrations assuming a standard 50 scfm extraction flow rate. Based on this estimate, the Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 can be operated for approximately the same cost as the ICE over the 1,000 ppmv to 4,250 ppmv concentration range. If the cost of providing a power hookup is greater than \$1,000.00, or if a vapor extraction blower has not already been installed on the site, the ICE will provide a significant cost savings over the Purus PADRE® at all influent concentrations.

Because most sites that require SVE have initial soil vapor concentrations in excess of 10,000 ppmv, the ICE is the technology of choice for fuel spill site remediations. After soil vapor concentrations are reduced below 1,000 ppmv, many SVE systems can be switched to air injection bioventing systems. In summary, the Purus PADRE® Model 1.6 is a well-engineered system that can achieve 98+ percent removal of hydrocarbon vapors at loading rates of less than 36 kilograms per day. However, an ICE will generally be less expensive to operate over the concentration ranges encountered at fuel spill sites. The Purus PADRE® is best suited for the removal of chlorinated compounds which cannot be effectively treated using ICE technologies.

FIGURE 3.2
COST vs INFLUENT CONCENTRATION AT 50 SCFM
PURUS PADRE™ MODEL 1.6

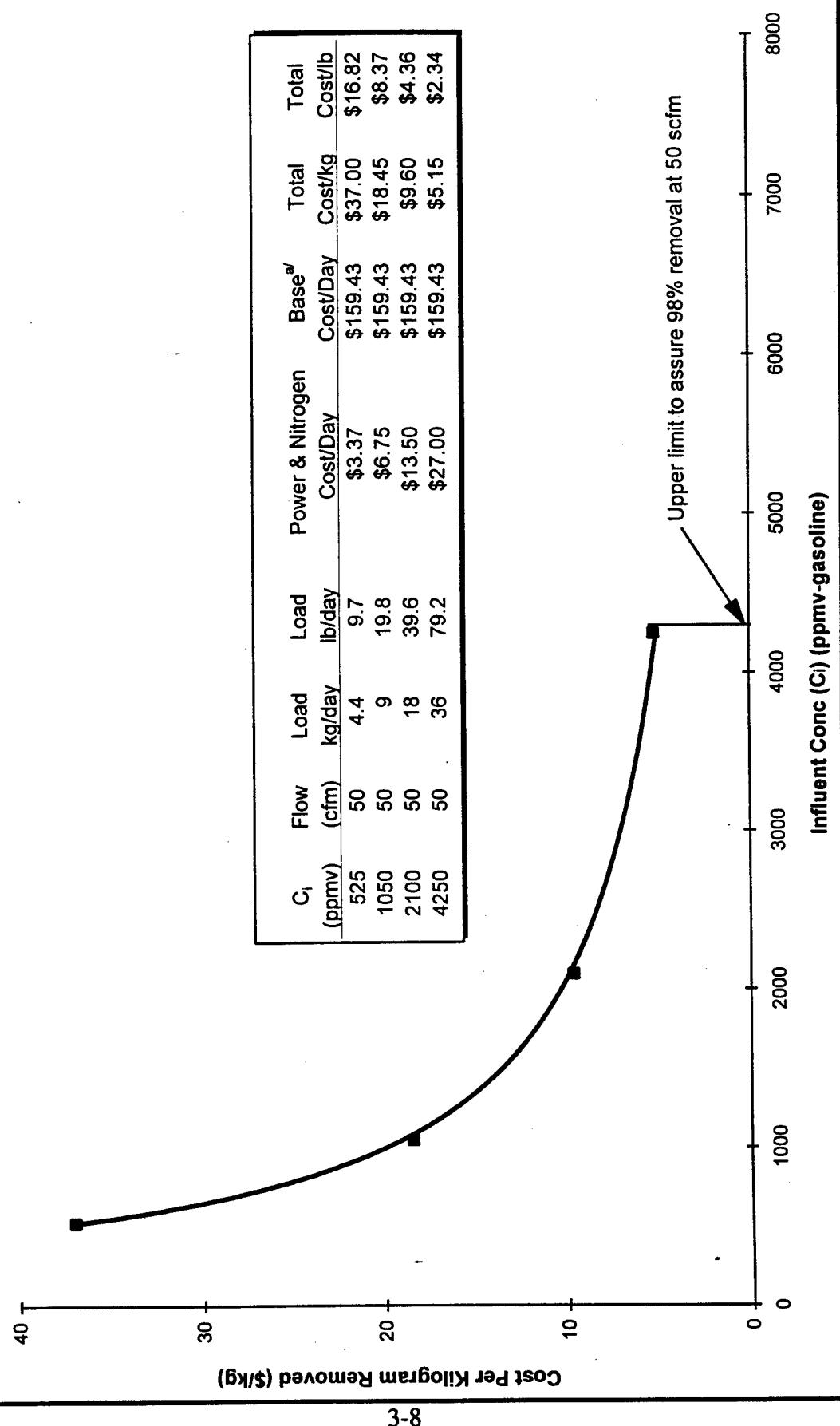


TABLE 3.4
COST COMPARISON FOR
VR SYSTEMS MODEL V2C,
PURUS-PADRE® MODEL 1.6 AND
GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON

| Item | VR Systems Model V2C | | Purus-Padre® Model 1.6 | | Granular Activated Carbon GAC | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Rental/Monthly ^{a/} | \$3,115.00 | | \$3,500.00 | | GAC cost based on purchase of 2,000 lb/canister @\$2.13/lb. | | |
| System Monitoring (Monthly) | \$1,200.00 | | \$1,200.00 | | | | |
| Power Hookup ^{f/} (Monthly) | | | \$83.30 | | | | |
| Supplemental Fuel Costs: | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Blower to Extract Soil Vapor | | System monitoring \$600.00 monthly or \$20.00/day | | |
| @ Constant Flow Rate of 50 SCFM | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Blower to Extract Soil Vapor | | |
| @ Various Loading Rates | | | Electrical and Nitrogen Supply Costs: | | | | |
| PPMV | Kg/Day | <u>Daily</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Daily</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | • Based on a 20% Loading Capacity for Carbon | |
| 525 | 4.4 | \$21.10 | \$633.00 | \$3.37 | \$101.00 | | |
| 1,050 | 9 | \$20.85 | \$626.00 | \$6.75 | \$203.00 | | |
| 2,100 | 18 | \$20.35 | \$611.00 | \$13.50 | \$405.00 | | |
| 4,250 | 36 ^{b/} | \$19.25 | \$578.00 | \$27.00 | \$810.00 | | |
| Total Monthly Costs ^{c/d/} | | | | | | | |
| @ 4.4 kg/day | \$4,948.00 | | \$4,884.00 | | | | |
| @ 9 kg/day | \$4,941.00 | | \$4,986.00 | | | | |
| @ 18 kg/day | \$4,926.00 | | \$5,188.00 | | | | |
| @ 36 kg/day | \$4,893.00 | | \$5,593.00 | | | | |
| Cost per Kilogram Treated ^{d/} | | | | | | | |
| | | <u>Base Cost/Day</u> | <u>Cost/kg</u> | <u>Base Cost/Day</u> | <u>Cost/kg</u> | <u>Base Cost/Day</u> | <u>Cost/kg</u> |
| @ 4.4 kg/day | | \$164.90 | \$37.48 | \$162.80 | \$37.00 | \$123.00 | \$27.95 |
| @ 9 kg/day | | \$164.70 | \$18.30 | \$166.20 | \$18.45 | \$231.00 | \$25.70 |
| @ 18 kg/day | | \$164.20 | \$9.10 | \$172.90 | \$9.60 | \$442.00 | \$24.60 |
| @ 36 kg/day | | \$163.10 | \$4.50 | \$186.40 | \$5.15 | \$863.00 | \$24.00 |

a/ Based on a minimum rental period of 12 months.

b/ Maximum loading/day of 50 SCFM for the Purus model 1.6 to assure 98 % removal.

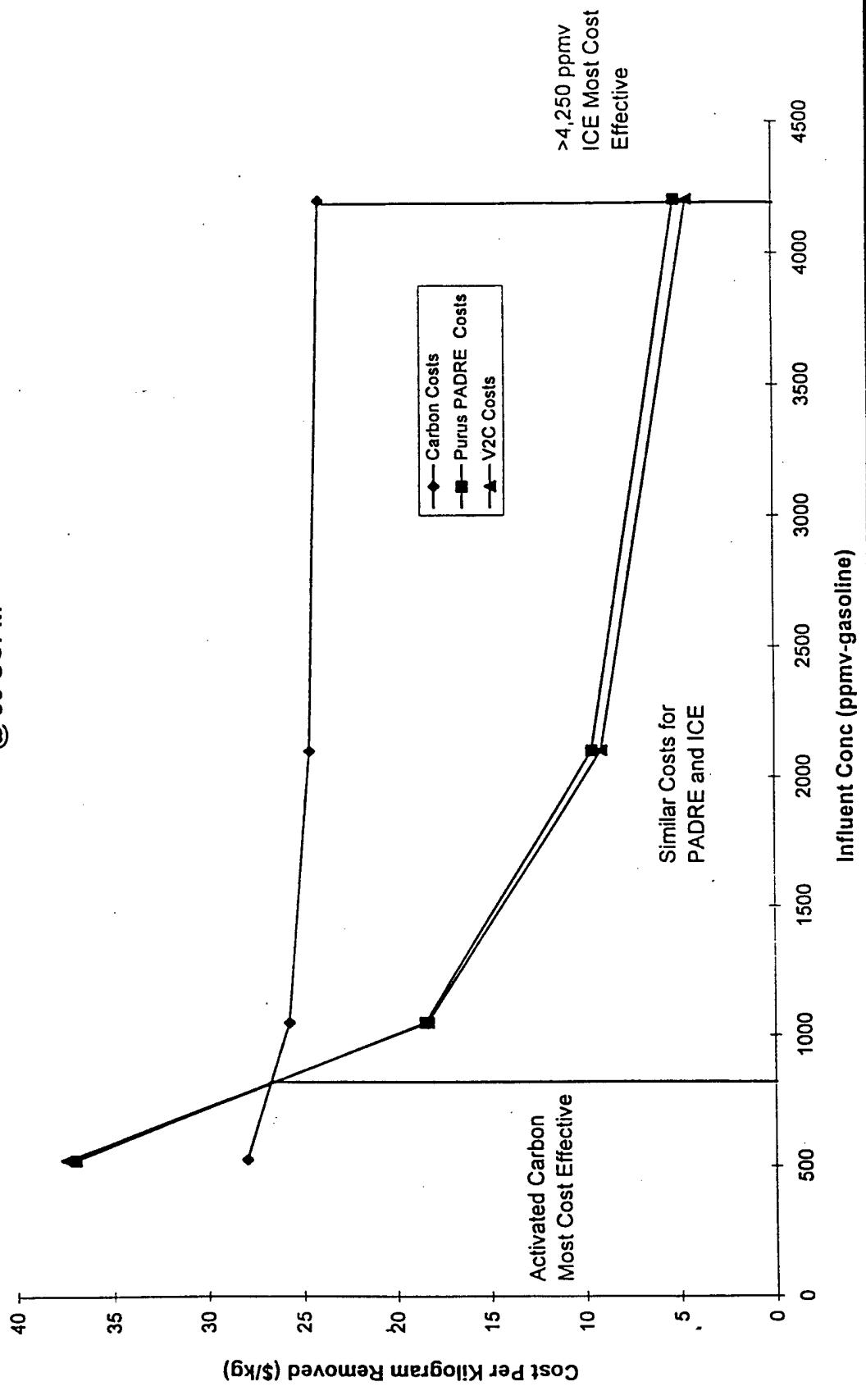
c/ Based on a 30-day month, includes: system monitoring and supplemental fuel usage at various loading rates.

d/ Based on a 30-day month, at various loading rates.

e/ Does not include initial setup for either model.

f/ \$1,000.00 initial electrical hookup for Purus-Padre® Model 1.6, divided by 12 months of operation.

FIGURE 3.3
**COST COMPARISON FOR VR SYSTEMS V2C,
 PURUS-PADRE™ MODEL 1.6 AND GAC
 @ 50 SCFM**



3.4.4 Reliability and Maintainability

The Purus PADRE® system proved to be reliable during this study. During initial startup, approximately 3 weeks were required to correct mechanical problems and balance the system to flow conditions. However, after these startup problems were resolved, the unit operated with very few mechanical problems or interruptions for 110 days. The maintenance problems that did occur caused more downtime than would ordinarily be encountered because a telephone modem control system had not been installed with this unit. Had this telemetry been available, interruptions in service would have been detected instantly (via pagers), and often rectified via modem. Approximately 8 days of downtime occurred during the 94 days of operation following the initial 2-week startup period.

Regular monthly maintenance is required for the Purus PADRE® system. Because of the unit's complexity, specially trained Purus technicians are required for this maintenance. Liquid nitrogen supplies must be monitored and new dewars ordered in time to ensure uninterrupted operation. Nitrogen replacement and removal of recovered fuel can be completed by Base or contract personnel. A covered and properly vented storage tank must be located next to the unit to store recovered fuel and water. At this test site, a small carbon canister was required to treat hydrocarbons in the air vented from the tank. Before initiating treatment, the disposition of recovered fuel and water must be determined. The recovered hydrocarbons at this site could be recycled.

SECTION 4

SUMMARY

4.1 TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE

The Purus PADRE® system provided 110 days of vapor treatment and averaged over 98 percent removal of total VOCs and BTEX. During this pilot study, VOC influent concentrations decreased from 18,600 ppmv to 3,000 ppmv, and flow rates varied from 20 to 49 scfm. Approximately 570 gallons (3,500 pounds) of hydrocarbons were recovered from the site and recycled. The cost of Purus PADRE® treatment averaged \$23 per kilogram (\$10.45/lb) of hydrocarbon removed. Based on the operating costs observed during this test, the cost could be reduced to \$5 to \$6 per kilogram (\$2.25 to \$2.70/lb) if optimum loading was sustained and a 12-month rental agreement was in place. By varying the bed size and adsorption cycles, the Purus PADRE® unit can be optimized for different site conditions.

Startup of the Purus PADRE® system required 3 weeks of problem solving and system balancing. After the system was balanced, the Purus PADRE® operated with relatively few problems for 110 days. Installation of a telephone modem is recommended if the system is to operate for more than 60 days. System checks, recovered fuel handling, and nitrogen changes will require approximately 3 hours of technician time each week. Based on the relative complexity of this system, and the time and expense required for setup, the Purus PADRE® system will be most efficiently applied at sites where at least 90 days of treatment are required.

4.2 INTEGRATION WITH *IN SITU* BIOVENTING

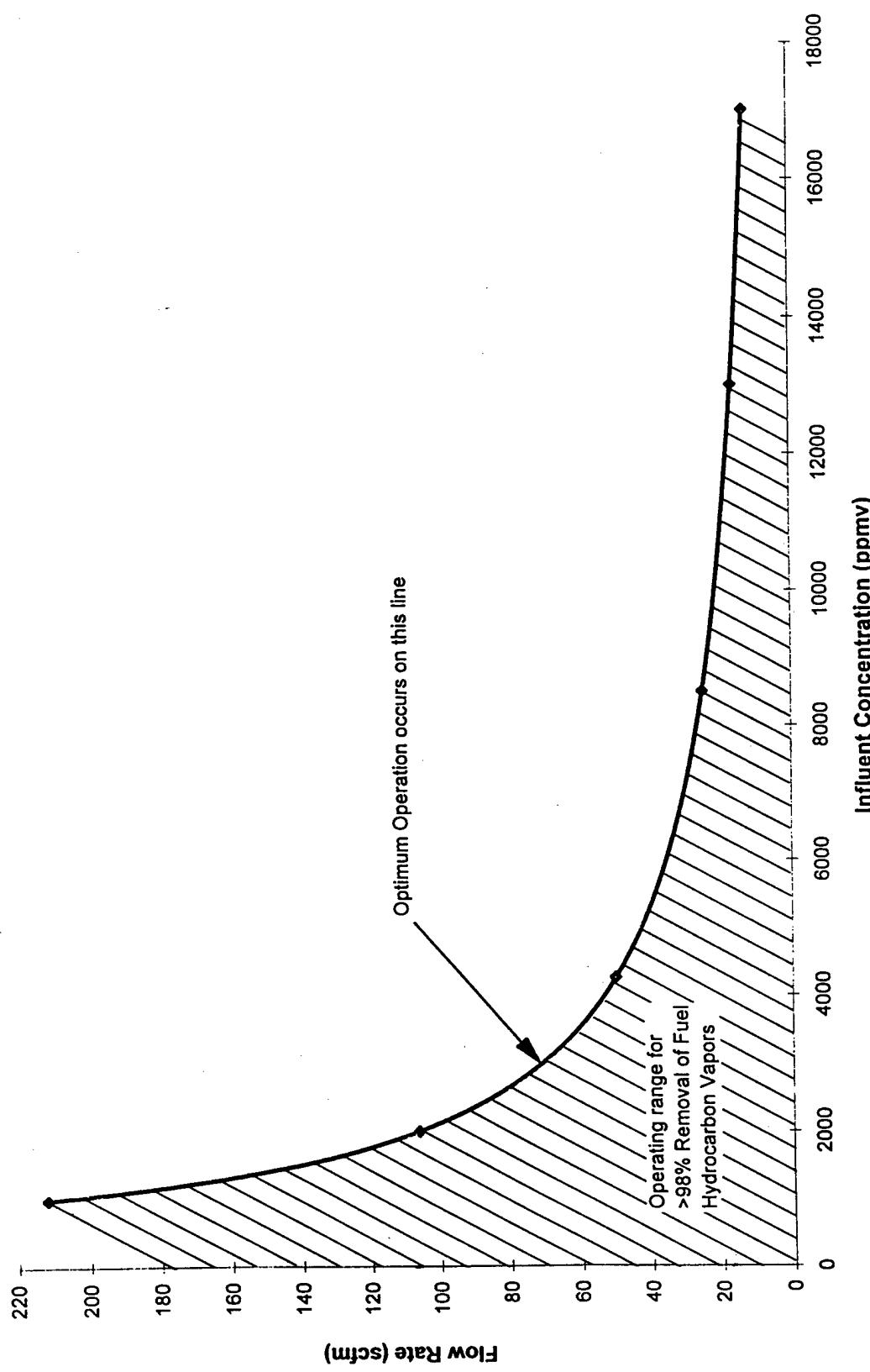
At sites with high levels (>10,000 ppmv) of soil gas hydrocarbons, it may be necessary to extract these vapors before long-term air injection/bioventing can begin. Of particular concern are sites with gasoline or light distillate contamination, and sites near buildings and utility corridors that could be adversely impacted by vapor migration caused by air injection. Based on the cost evaluation presented in Section 3, it will generally be more economical to treat soil vapor concentrations of greater than 10,000 ppmv using ICE technology. However, there may be situations where thermal destruction is not desired due to regulatory or site contaminants.

Based on vendor information and testing at Vandenberg AFB, the Purus PADRE® technology is an effective method of controlling vapor emissions. The Model 1.6 is most efficient at a loading rate of 36 kilograms per day, which can be achieved by various combinations of flow and concentration. If 10 scfm is assumed to be the lowest practical vapor extraction rate, the maximum concentration that can be treated with the

Model 1.6 (at 98 percent removal) is approximately 21,000 ppmv. If an *in situ* biofilter (reinjection trench) is used to treat breakthrough from the Purus PADRE®, higher concentrations could be accepted by the Purus PADRE® during the initial days of operation. Figure 4.1 provides an example of the flow rates and extracted hydrocarbon vapor concentrations that can be treated using the optimal Model 1.6 loading rate of 36 kilograms per day. Figure 4.1 can be used to determine if the minimum extraction rates required to provide oxygen for bioventing can be treated using the PURUS Model 1.6.

The amount of time that the Purus PADRE® should operate at each site will depend on several factors. The decision to begin air injection bioventing must be based on the potential risk of vapor migration and the ability of soil microorganisms to biodegrade vapor-phase hydrocarbons. Biodegradation rates established during the bioventing pilot tests can be used to determine the approximate mass of soil biofilter required to biodegrade a known mass of migrating hydrocarbons. By minimizing air injection rates to satisfy *in situ* oxygen demand, the flux of volatile hydrocarbons to the atmosphere will be minimized.

FIGURE 4.1
OPTIMUM INFLUENT CONCENTRATIONS vs. FLOW RATE
PURUS PADRE™ MODEL 1.6



SECTION 5

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